SISTERS ON THE DEAD LINE

WHO'S THERE?
WAKE UP...
WAKE UP...

WAKE UP,
BROTHER!
?!
GOOD MORNING!
DIIIIIIIIIE!!
あああああ
W-WHY ARE YOU PUTTING MY HEAD IN YOUR LAP WITHOUT MY OKAY?
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE SUFFERING...
I'M SORRY.
OH, NO...

...
WELL...
I HAD THAT DREAM AGAIN.
DO YOU THINK IT'S TRUE?
HUH?
THAT GIRL IN MY DREAM... HER NAME IS ASU AND SHE'S AN OKITEGAMURI, RIGHT?
SUPPOSEDLY EXTERNAL INFORMATION ABUSED HER AND DROVE HER TO HER DEATH.
SHIKI WAS...
...I'M SORRY. I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS.
BUT I THINK IT'S CLEAR THAT SHIKI WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN HER DEATH.
...

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
?!
BUT IT'S ALL I CAN DO
TO DODGE.
I CAN SEE THEM ALL,
AGAIN?!

OWW...
ROLL
HOLD BACK A LITTLE!
JEEZ
ROLL
SMACK
WOW, THAT LOOKED LIKE IT HURT.
HEAD HEAD
YOU'RE SUCH A MORON.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND PROTECT YOURSELF FOR A CHANGE?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LET OTHER PEOPLE PROTECT YOU?
YOU NEVER GET STRONGER BECAUSE YOU OVER-RELY ON REM AWAKENING.

I CAN PROTECT MYSELF.

I KNOW THAT, OKAY?
ENOUGH TALK. COME ON.

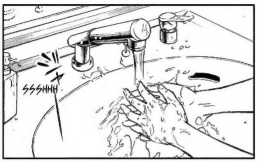
NOW IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS!

NORMALLY YOU'D HOLD BACK A LITTLE, RIGHT?
THAT SERIOUSLY HURTS...
SHEESH. STUPID FOOL.
...
RUB
RUB

NICE, NICE. YOU AND SHIKI-CHAN SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG GREAT.
OHO!

HMM?

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY?
IT'S CREEPY.


SSSHHH

HHRRRR

PAT
PAT

WHAT IS IT?
YOU'VE GOT SOME-THING YOU WANT TO ASK, RIGHT?

THERE WAS THAT OKITE-NEMURU NAMED ASU, RIGHT?

...

HHRRR

WAS SHE KILLED BY EXTERNAL INFORMATION?

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF SHE WAS?
...
I HAVE THESE WEIRD DREAMS.
ALMOST EVERY DAY.
THERE'S THIS GIRL AND SHE'S PLAYING WITH THESE ANIMALS.
AND THERE'S THIS WOMAN WHO'S HOLDING THE DEAD BODY OF A SOLDIER.
...
I CAN TELL FOR CERTAIN NOW
THAT SHE'S ASU.

THINGS HAVE BEEN WEIRD EVER SINCE THE INCIDENT WITH THE DRONES.
PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS JUST LEAP INTO MY MIND...
AND ASU'S EMOTIONS IN THAT DREAM ARE GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER TOO.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
PLEASE TELL ME.
THE TRUTH.

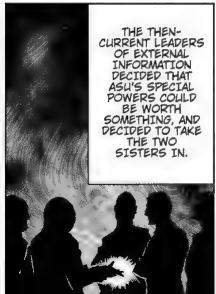
EXTERNAL INFORMATION WAS ORIGINALLY A PMC THAT PROVIDED MILITARY SUPPORT IN WAR ZONES AROUND THE WORLD.

IT WAS JUST AFTER I'D JOINED UP.

I SAW SOMETHING THAT MADE ME DISBELIEVE MY OWN EYES.
AND THEN...
IT WAS FIERCE ENOUGH THAT IT MORE OR LESS DESTROYED BOTH ARMIES.
THERE WAS A HUGE BATTLE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT ARMY AND THE REVOLUTIONARIES IN THE HOTTEST WAR ZONE IN EAST ASIA.

THERE WERE SURVIVORS IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT BRUTAL FIGHT.
THAT'S WHERE I MET ASU AND SHIKI.

W-WAIT?
SISTERS?
ASU AND SHIKI ARE ACTUALLY SISTERS.
THAT'S RIGHT.


THE THEN-CURRENT LEADERS OF EXTERNAL INFORMATION DECIDED THAT ASU'S SPECIAL POWERS COULD BE WORTH SOMETHING, AND DECIDED TO TAKE THE TWO SISTERS IN.

HER EXPERIENCE, TALENT, AND UNPARALLELED SKILL AS AN OKITENEMURU MADE HER GROW UP TO BE EXTERNAL INFORMATION'S STRONGEST SOLDIER.
ASU WAS SENT INTO COMBAT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

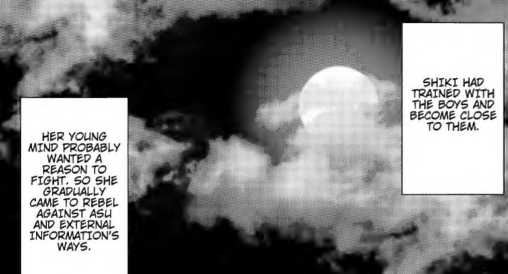
THE MORE THE REACTIONS STARTED TO HIT HER.
AND THE HARDER SHE FOUGHT,

AND EXTERNAL INFORMATION MADE A LOT OF MONEY.
SHE FOUGHT HARD

THE INCIDENT IN GURIMENIA CHANGED HER FOREVER.
AND THEN

EVAN!
ARE THE MEN OF GURIMENIA ALL PUSSIES AND COWARDS?!
EVAN, WAIT!
DAMN IT!
FHOOSH
DASH
DASH
FHOOSH
AHAHA
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO LET YOUR EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF YOU WHEN YOU FIGHT?
SHEESH.
DAMN IT!
GRRL
SHE WAS ASSIGNED TO DO MILITARY TRAINING FOR THE GOVERNMENT FORCES IN GURIMENIA.
BUT THE PEOPLE SHE WAS ASSIGNED TO TRAIN WERE ALL VERY YOUNG BOYS.

CAN IT! YOU'RE STILL NOT AT A LEVEL WHERE YOU CAN FIGHT. YOU WANT TO DIE FOR NOTHING?
WE'RE SICK OF TRAINING!
WE WANT TO FIGHT!
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE!
NO MATTER HOW BRAVELY YOU FIGHT, IF YOU DIE EVERYTHING'S OVER. THERE'S NO VALUE IN THAT AT ALL.
THEN YOU'RE A FOOL.
IF I DIE FIGHTING THE BAD GUYS, THAT'S FINE WITH ME!
THE MEN OF GURIMENIA ARE PROUD WARRIORS!
I CAN PROTECT MYSELF!


HER YOUNG MIND PROBABLY WANTED A REASON TO FIGHT. SO SHE GRADUALLY CAME TO REBEL AGAINST ASU AND EXTERNAL INFORMATION'S WAYS.
SHIKI HAD TRAINED WITH THE BOYS AND BECOME CLOSE TO THEM.

Uhh...
!!

ASU WAS SUFFERING FROM THE REACTION TO THE REM AWAKENING.
THE REACTION CAUSED HER TO EXPERIENCE THE FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS OF OTHERS AS HER OWN, AND IT WAS STARTING TO DESTROY HER MENTAL STABILITY.

SHIKI AND THE YOUNG BOYS HAD LEFT FOR A TOWN ON THE FRONT LINES WHILE ASW WASN'T LOOKING.
ORDERS FROM ABOVE!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
GRAB
AND THEN ONE DAY SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED.

IT CAN'T BE...
THEY WON'T EVEN BE WORTH ANYTHING IN COMBAT...
NO WAY!

SHIKI!